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35. EXTENSION OF RANGE OF A FRESHWATER LEECH *BARBRONIA WEBERI* (BLANCHARD) (ARHYNCHOBDELLAE:ERPOBDELLIDAE) FROM PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

A handful of aquatic vegetation, mainly *Marsilea*, collected from the marshy banks of the river Mutha, near Balgandharva Ranga Mandir in Pune, Maharashtra, disclosed the presence of eight small leeches. These were red in colour and swam actively when placed in an aquarium. Detailed examination after preservation indicated that the species was *Barbronia weberi* (Blanchard), as per the key given by Chandra (1983).

Diagnostic features: Slender, linear form; terete anterior end; flattish posterior end; small, round caudal sucker and distinct clitellum. The specimens also compared well with the full description given by Harding and Moore (1927). One of the collected specimens, however, measured 49 mm. Harding and Moore mentioned the size "...to be 25 to 35 mm, the largest being 36 mm..." Interestingly it was the smaller specimen (30 mm) that showed a well-developed male genital pore and the so-called anterior and posterior accessory copulatory pores. In the 49 mm specimen, the posterior pore was not well marked. Such variations have also been mentioned by Harding and

Moore (1927).

This species has so far been reported only from the northern parts of India, viz. Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh (Harding and Moore 1927, Chandra 1983). In fact, no member of the family Erpobdellidae was reported from Maharashtra until fairly recently, when two species of the genus *Herpobdelloidea* were reported (Chandra 1976). This report therefore considerably extends the range of *Barbronia weberi*

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